

CIVIC_REFLEX_BLOOD_LUST_complete_2020.mp4

a. vendetta, July 2020

empathy surveillance is a project initiated by april vendetta for PERFORMANCY FORUM: CIVIC REFLEX/REFLEJO CÍVICO, 2018. Archived image of the program's website¹ provided by the Internet Archive Wayback Machine. empathy surveillance for Civic Reflex/Reflejo Cívico² hosted on archive.org.

The following document is by april vendetta and provides a scene breakdown to a projected video screened during/alongside their performance on November 1, 2018, at Panoply Performance Laboratory. In 2020 additional edits have been made to the video file, those changes appear in **red text**. Found footage is detonated in CIVIC_REFLEX_BLOOD_LUST_complete_2020.mp4 and is licensed under Fair Use.³

¹ "CIVIC REFLEX/REFLEJO CIVICO," September 14, 2018.
<https://web.archive.org/web/20180914011858/http://reflejocivico.civicroflex.us/>.

² <https://archive.org/search.php?query=subject%3A%22Civic+Reflex%22>

³ "More Information on Fair Use | U.S. Copyright Office." Accessed July 18, 2020. <https://www.copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>.



april vendetta, Empathy Surveillance Play, 2018, camera operator Elizabeth Lamb

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Sequence:

Start

A/V: Non-Commercial Use Only text fades in then out

A/V: Inside view of the Frankenstein's monster mask (POV) while inside a room of an apartment.

Found footage: User-uploaded video to a public platform on the internet. Charlton Heston (a white male individual/actor known for racist comments and his racist roles in film) recites lyrics to Body Count's *Cop Killer*⁴ at an annual Time Warner shareholders meeting. He held shares of Time Warner. Heston was also fierce gun-rights activist. **The text states that Body Count's *Cop Killer* released in 1992.** The song was recorded in 1991 and released on the album *Body Count* shortly after the acquittal of the white male individuals/police officers responsible for the brutal beating of Rodney King.⁵ The song, was released on Warner Bros. Records. *Cop killer*, a protest song against racial injustice, faced heavy censorship, which is something that Ice-T has spoken out about.⁶ Eventually, Ice-T decided to remove the song and replace it with *Freedom of Speech* on the album's reissue in 2014.⁷ Body Count, which features Ice-T as the lead singer, is a Black & POC American band from south-central Los Angeles.

A/V: Me on all fours in the bathroom wearing a Frankenstein's Monster mask over the dog mask⁸ penetrating myself with the double-sided dildo. **Penetration censored by an emoji wearing a facemask.** i have on black rubber gloves, a spaghetti strap black top, black studded collar, black thong, and black pantyhose that have been ripped open. i am also wearing a rubber dog toy shaped like a television remote on a strap-on harness which is attached to the metal ring.

Found footage: User-uploaded video to a public platform on the internet. A white male individual standing in a kitchen proclaims that he is in the middle of moving homes so his regular cooking show will not be taking place. Instead, he decides to take the opportunity to show off his weapon collection.

A/V: Close up between my legs. i continue to penetrate myself. **Penetration censored by an emoji wearing a facemask.**

⁴ AP NEWS. "Charlton Heston Shocks Shareholders With Reading of Controversial Lyrics." Accessed July 18, 2020. <https://apnews.com/1f1e03326ae8e8cd2cc55e64d6af8caa>.

⁵ "From the Archives: All 4 in King Beating Acquitted." Los Angeles Times, April 30, 1992. <https://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-all-4-in-king-beating-acquitted-19920430-story.html>.

⁶ "A ROC EXCLUSIVE: ICE-T SPEAKS OUT ON CENSORSHIP, COP KILLER, HIS LEAVING WARNER BROS., AND MORE," October 13, 2007. <https://web.archive.org/web/20071013112856/http://theroc.org/roc-mag/textarch/roc-11/roc11-09.htm>.

⁷ Discogs. "Body Count (2) - Body Count." Accessed July 18, 2020. <https://www.discogs.com/Body-Count-Body-Count/release/6167456>.

⁸ Internet Archive. "Dogmask1.5 : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming." Accessed July 18, 2020. <https://archive.org/details/dogmask1.5>.

Found footage: The white male individual talks about open-carry laws in Nevada's state (presumably where he resides), God bless America and the Second Amendment⁹ are central to his video. He begins to show off his holstered gun on his hip, and a body cam clipped to the collar of his t-shirt. Body camera sales spiked in 2014 after the killing of Michael Brown (a Black American teenager) in Ferguson, MO by a white male individual/police officer. Although the NPR report¹⁰ suggest that sales had already been steadily increasing. Body camera effectiveness to curb police brutality or hold police officers accountable has consistently shown near zero effect.¹¹ The documentary film *Whose Streets?*¹² released in 2017 recounts what happened in Ferguson in 2014 and the aftermath that sparked racial and social justice uprisings throughout the world.

A/V: Close up on the strap-on with a rubber dog toy shaped like a television remote is attached to the metal ring.

Found footage: Close up of the white male individual's hands holding the body camera over a wooden table. He thanks his viewer's for watching.

A/V: On my back with my legs in the air. The strap-on and double-sided dildo both visible. My hand in a black rubber glove holds the dildo and move it back and forth. The angle of the video camera obscures penetration.

Found footage: White male individual filming his weapon collection (laid out on a table) with his body camera. There is a gun, various knives, and tactical flashlights.

A/V: Close up penetration **censored by an emoji wearing a facemask.**

Found footage: User-uploaded video to a public platform on the internet. A clip from the movie *Two-Minute Warning*,¹³ 1976 starring: Charlton Heston (a white male individual). Charlton Heston plays a police officer trying to catch a rogue civilian sniper. Another white male individual/police officer is telling him that they have found out that the shooter is a white male individual but has no known motive. Heston says that the fact the shooter is a white male individual does not matter because the race of a shooter is unimportant. He used the word "nut" to describe the killer. The next scene takes place on a college football field. The two football teams are lining up for a play on the field. A Black quarterback is readying the huddle as the

⁹ "U.S. Senate: Constitution of the United States." Accessed July 18, 2020.

[https://www.senate.gov/civics/constitution_item/constitution.htm#amdt_2_\(1791\)](https://www.senate.gov/civics/constitution_item/constitution.htm#amdt_2_(1791)).

¹⁰ NPR.org. "Maker Of 'Body Cams' Used By Police Reports Spike In Sales." Accessed July 20, 2020.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2014/10/30/360196130/maker-of-body-cams-used-by-police-reports-spike-in-sales>.

¹¹ NPR.org. "Body Cam Study Shows No Effect On Police Use Of Force Or Citizen Complaints." Accessed July 20, 2020. <https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/10/20/558832090/body-cam-study-shows-no-effect-on-police-use-of-force-or-citizen-complaints>.

¹² *Whose Streets (Official Movie Site) - In Theaters August 11*. Accessed July 20, 2020.

<http://www.whosestreetsfilm.com/>.

¹³ "Two-Minute Warning." In *Wikipedia*, July 5, 2020. https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Two-Minute_Warning&oldid=966086160

movie camera cuts to a sniper scope zooming into the Black quarterback's jersey number. The crosshairs become fixed on the number 8 on his back.

Found footage: User-uploaded video to a public platform on the internet. The video begins similarly to where the movie clips left off, with the back of a football jersey viewed through the scope of a gun. You see the word Kaepernick and number 7. At the time of the filming of this video (2016) Colin Kaepernick¹⁴ (a Black American professional football player) had been taking a knee during the beginning of each football game he played. This silence protest, which took place during the US National Anthem, was meant to draw attention to racial inequalities, social justice issues, and specifically police brutality within the US. The jersey stretched onto a target stand shaped like the rough outline of a person. The video cuts to a lineup of several white male individuals with their backs to the camera. One white male individual is wearing a t-shirt with a thin blue line American flag on it. This version of the American flag claims to signify support for police officers while simultaneously being used by white supremacists.¹⁵ It is a symbol often associated with controversy.¹⁶ At least seven white men are holding what appears to be assault rifles. They proceed to rapid fire bullets into their target which is essentially an effigy of Colin Kaepernick. The video cuts to the scope and closes up of the jersey on the person-shaped target filled with bullet holes. In the final sequence, a white male individual is lying on his stomach with an assault rifle on a tripod. He launches an incendiary device from the gun and blows up their target. An excerpt from Body Count's song *Bloodlust*¹⁷ is added by me and plays over the entire sequence.

Found footage: User-uploaded video to a public platform on the internet. Dave Grossman (a white male individual) is seen speaking to a group of police officers or military trainees in 2015. **Text identifying who he is.** Grossman trains US police officers and US armed forces. He is known for his controversial and overly aggressive style of training. He coined the term "killology" to describe the warrior style mindset he wants his trainees to embody while engaging civilians by treating them as a hostile on the field of battle. US states like Minneapolis have tried to ban police officers from receiving his training, but police unions have been offering it anyway.¹⁸ **Partway through the sequence, the video color becomes inverted, and the text ABOLISH THE POLICE repeated multiple times scrolls from the bottom to the top of the screen until the clip ends.**

A/V: i am holding a video camera and pointing it into a mirror as i bounce up and down. i have on bright red lipstick and have a black rubber gag shaped like a dog bone in my mouth. i am

¹⁴ "Kaepernick: From One Man to a Movement." BBC Sport. Accessed July 18, 2020. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/american-football/41530732>.

¹⁵ POLITICO. "The Short, Fraught History of the 'Thin Blue Line' American Flag." Accessed July 21, 2020. <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2020/06/09/the-short-fraught-history-of-the-thin-blue-line-american-flag-309767>.

¹⁶ NPR.org. "Barring Of 'Thin Blue Line' Flag Display Stirs Controversy In Montgomery County." Accessed July 18, 2020. <https://www.npr.org/local/305/2019/11/04/776060800/barring-of-thin-blue-line-flag-display-stirs-controversy-in-montgomery-county>.

¹⁷ Discogs. "Body Count (2) - Bloodlust." Accessed July 18, 2020. <https://www.discogs.com/Body-Count-Bloodlust/master/1157988>.

¹⁸ Oh, Inac. "Minneapolis Banned Warrior-Style Police Training. Its Police Union Kept Offering It Anyway." Mother Jones (blog). Accessed July 18, 2020. <https://www.motherjones.com/crime-justice/2020/05/bob-kroll-minneapolis-warrior-police-training/>.

wearing a light pink collar (made by adult pornstar Lydia Black) with the word 'APRIL' on it. A bedazzled necklace with the word 'SEXY' hangs off a nail on the wall. A sticker that reads 'NON COMMERCIAL USE ONLY' with two crossed-out dollar signs stuck to the backside of the video camera's flip screen.

Found footage: User-uploaded video to a public platform on the internet. In the summer of 2016, NYPD Commissioner Bratton (a white male individual) stood on top of a metal podium. His name and id info display below him. A police officer hands him a checkered race flag as Bratton declares, "gentlemen start your engines!" He waves the flag. The sequence repeats in slow motion, which cuts to a slowed-down version of a bulldozer with NYPD decals driving on top of a long line of dirt bikes confiscated by the NYPD. Part PR stunt part performance this live streamed action was allegedly intended to teach NY citizens who ride dirt bikes a lesson and deter them from operating these kinds of mostly¹⁹ illegal²⁰ vehicles. There is a slowed down voice over of Bratton during the press conference that the NYPD where he calls this predominately Black & POC group of NY citizens "nitwits" and "knuckleheads" for driving the dirt bikes.

A/V: In another newly added video clip²¹ i am shaving my pubic hair with a razor. The video camera is pointed at the mirror i am standing in front of. When i am finished shaving a tattoo under the hair is revealed a smiling pink & yellow daisy with the words 'april vendetta NO OP TRANS a/v' circling the edge of the daisy. The text ABOLISH THE PRISONS repeated multiple times scrolls from the bottom to the top of the screen until the clip ends. Note: This clip was played for a live virtual audience on June 29th, 2020 during personal archive / public action²² for PERFORMANCY FORUM: CORPUS COLISEUM,²³ produced in collaboration between the Operating System/Liminal Lab,²⁴ and PPL (Panoply Performance Laboratory).²⁵

A/V: Inside the Frankenstein's monster mask (POV) again. Body Count's *Bloodlust* again plays over the video. Frankenstein's monster mask and video camera move around as if the viewer is looking through the eye holes. Video camera zooms in on brick facades outside and fixes on barbed wire atop a wooden fence. There is snow on the ground and in the air.

Found footage: User-uploaded video to a public platform on the internet. A white male individual is sitting down and facing the video camera. An assault rifle is in his lap. He talks about his beliefs and the Second Amendment. How he has openly advocated for his right to bear

¹⁹ SportsRec. "New York State Dirtbike Laws." Accessed July 18, 2020. <https://www.sportsrec.com/new-york-state-dirtbike-laws-7430885.html>.

²⁰ Potoski, Luke. "Electric Scooters and Bicycles and Other Unregistered Vehicles." Text. New York DMV, November 22, 2013. <https://dmv.ny.gov/registration/electric-scooters-and-bicycles-and-other-unregistered-vehicles>.

²¹ *Abolish the Prisons : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive*. Accessed July 20, 2020. <https://archive.org/details/abolishtheprisons>.

²² *Personal Archive / Public Action : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive*. Accessed July 19, 2020. <https://archive.org/details/personalarchivepublication>.

²³ "PERFORMANCY FORUM." Accessed July 19, 2020. <http://www.performancyforum.net/>.

²⁴ "LIMINAL LAB BK – The Operating System." Accessed July 19, 2020. <http://www.theoperatingsystem.org/projects-collaborations/liminal-lab/>.

²⁵ "Home | Panoply Performance Laboratory." Accessed July 19, 2020. <http://www.panoplylab.org/>.

arms. Then he talks about school shootings, specifically about Sandy Hook (2012).²⁶ He is mentioning that he is making this video five years after the Sandy Hook mass shooting because not enough is being done to spot mass shootings. The shooter of Sandy Hook was a white male individual. In the US, most mass shootings are perpetrated by white male individuals.²⁷

The white male individual in the video says that Sandy Hook affected him because many of the victims were grade school children. He says he would give up his gun if it would save at least one child. In the video, the white male individual gets up, walks to a chop saw behind him, and cuts the barrel of the gun in half. He then tells the camera that now there is one less gun in the world. Note: White nationalist, media grifter, conspiracy theorist, and self-proclaimed “performance artist”²⁸ Alex Jones (a white male individual) repeatedly pushed an online conspiracy that Sandy Hook was a hoax and is currently in lawsuits with many of the victims’ families.²⁹

A/V: I am lying on my back legs spread and feet moving into the air. My right hand holding the black double-sided dildo and my left-hand clench. I stare back at the camera through the dog mask and the Frankenstein’s monster mask.

Found footage: User-uploaded video to a public platform on the internet. Video from the Veteran’s History Project³⁰ American Folklife Center and The Library of Congress. Video excerpts are edited from an interview³¹ in 2001 with Marvin D. Griess (a white male individual). Griess served in the Navy 1944-1946 during the World War, 1939-1945.³² In the interview, Griess discusses his time in the military. He recalls a story about losing one of his best friends in combat during the war. He is near tears or appears emotional. Near the end, he speaks about ideas of loyalty and seems to question the US’s involvement in many of the recent wars the country has instigated.

AV: Close up of Frankenstein’s monster mask that i am wearing. i look directly at the camera and fall to the side still on my back in the bathroom. A toilet is behind me.

A/V: A brief shot of a closed hand wearing a blue rubber glove laying on a cutting mat. The hand opens to reveal a thumb drive. The video was made at a production job where i received, packed, and shipped 100s of books a day for 8 hours a day five days a week for less than

²⁶ Independent Lens. “Newtown | Documentary about Sandy Hook School Shooting Aftermath | Independent Lens | PBS.” Accessed July 19, 2020. <https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/films/newtown/>.

²⁷ Follman, Mark, Gavin Aronsen, and Deanna Pan. “A Guide to Mass Shootings in America.” *Mother Jones* (blog). Accessed July 20, 2020. <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2012/07/mass-shootings-map/>.

²⁸ NBC News. “Not Fake News: InfoWars’ Alex Jones Is a ‘performance Artist,’ His Lawyer Says.” Accessed July 19, 2020. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/not-fake-news-infowars-alex-jones-performance-artist-n747491>.

²⁹ NPR.org. “Sandy Hook Victim’s Father Wins Defamation Suit; Alex Jones Sanctioned.” Accessed July 18, 2020. <https://www.npr.org/2019/06/18/733880866/sandy-hook-victims-father-wins-defamation-suit-alex-jones-sanctioned>.

³⁰ “About the Veterans History Project (American Folklife Center).” Accessed July 19, 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/vets/about.html>.

³¹ <https://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.51714/>

³² <https://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/bib/loc.natlib.afc2001001.51714>

\$15.00/hour with health benefits. i was later fired without cause or notice in the beginning of 2019. i wrote a review about the company³³ which i had worked for three years.

A/V: Marvin D. Griess passed away in 2017. i did not attend his funeral, but a Navy friend of Marv's took photographs of the entire event, from Catholic open-casket ceremony to the burial with a 21-gun salute. i had access to the pictures by a link to a site he had uploaded the images to. i then selected a set of images to have them printed. i went to a pharmacy to a self-service kiosk to printout my grandfather's funeral photos. The video shows a close of the slot where photos are retrieved as they come out of the printer. Each image falls out one by one. The last photograph to drop is Marv in an open casket. American flag folded near him. His eyes are closed with his arms crossed over his body.

Found footage: User-uploaded video to a public platform on the internet. An excerpt from *A Time for Burning*.³⁴ The documentary made by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America filmed in Omaha, NE, in 1966. Omaha, Nebraska, where i was born in 1984. The excerpt is a powerful segment where Ernie Chambers (a Black American citizen and later Nebraska Senator) cuts hair in a barbershop in North Omaha (a predominately Black American neighborhood). He explains to William Youndahl (a white male individual / Evangelical Lutheran minister) why Youndahl's church will resist racial integration. Ed Carter explains things further and gives his perspective in a piece archived by the Library of Congress.³⁵ Ernie Chamber's incredibly profound due to the delivery of his words, which are candid, passionate, and succinct. You can see visible sweat forming on Youndahl's brow as Chamber's speaks. Note: The excerpt from *A Time for Burning* was also played for a live virtual audience on June 29th, 2020 during personal archive / public action for PERFORMANCY FORUM: CORPUS COLISEUM, produced in collaboration between the Operating System/Liminal Lab, and PPL (Panoply Performance Laboratory).

End

³³ "Paper Cavalier Employee Review: Nothing Special a Fairly Typical Hourly Production Job | Indeed.Com." Accessed July 19, 2020. <https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Paper-Cavalier/reviews/nothing-special-a-fairly-typical-hourly-production-job?id=c8468f860f95fced>.

³⁴ *A Time for Burning : Lutheran Film Associates : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive*. Accessed July 19, 2020. <https://archive.org/details/atimeforburning>.

³⁵ https://www.loc.gov/static/programs/national-film-preservation-board/documents/time_for_burning.pdf